

Veterans Care Center Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2007

A meeting of the Veterans Care Center Advisory Committee (VCCAC) was held on Monday, July 9, 2007 at Patriots Colony, 6000 Patriots Colony Drive, Williamsburg.

**Members Present:**

Vince Burgess, ex-officio/voting	John Jackson
Julia Dillon	Bill Van Thiel, ex-officio/voting
Worth Kenyon	Jim Dudley

**Members Absent:**

Scott Brown	Sandra Ranicki
Thad Jones	Karen Olichwier

**Others Present:**

Dr. Lou Rossiter, PhD, College of William & Mary  
Dr. Christine J. Jensen, PhD, College of William & Mary  
Ellen Sutton, College of William & Mary  
Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy and Planning  
Anne Atkins, DVS Director of Communications  
Andrew Edward, DVS Webmaster  
Eutopia Rogers, DVS Office Assistant

**Materials Distributed**

Draft Minutes of March 30, 2007 meeting; Executive Summary: Long-term Feasibility Study: Quality Care They Earned; Long-term Care Study PowerPoint Presentation; Handout- "A New Focus on Easing the Pain"

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Before meeting was called to order, there was a tour of the Patriots Colony facilities. Commissioner Burgess called the meeting of the VCCAC to order at 12:38 p.m.

**Roll Call and Quorum Determination**

Eutopia Rogers called the roll. Six of the ten committee members were recorded as present. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**Review and Approval of VCCAC March 30, 2007 Minutes**

A **motion** was made by John Jackson, seconded by Julia Dillon and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2007 VCCAC meeting.

## **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Burgess thanked Lou Rossiter for setting up the meeting for the VCCAC. Commissioner Burgess commented that he was impressed with the Patriots Colony facility. He thanked the committee for coming to the meeting to see what can be done for long-term care for veterans. Commissioner Burgess stated that the SitterBarfoot Veterans Care Center's anticipated opening date will be in the September-October timeframe. He suggested that the next VCCAC meeting should be located at the SitterBarfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) so that the members would be familiar with the facility and staff. Commissioner Burgess mentioned that a SBVCC job fair will be held at 4 p.m. on July 23, 2007 at the McGuire VA Medical Center.

## **Long-term Care Study Presentation**

Dr. Rossiter, Director of the Schroeder Center for Healthcare Policy at the College of William & Mary, delivered a presentation on the Long-term Care Study being conducted by the Schroeder Center and the First Chesapeake Group. The purpose of the study is to examine the current and future long-term care needs of veterans and to make recommendations for new facilities and services. In Dr. Rossiter's presentation, he pointed out four primary recommendations for long-term care for veterans.

- The General Assembly of Virginia should consider matching state funds for federal grants to construct up to three additional veterans care centers in Virginia (for a total of six veterans care centers). The three additional care centers would be in addition to the existing or planned care centers in Roanoke, Richmond, and Hampton.
- Two of the new veterans care centers should be located in areas with the highest veteran population without a veterans care center. The two areas to consider are the Northern Virginia Planning District and the West Piedmont Planning District.
- The third new veterans care center should be built in an area that has both a high veteran population without a veterans care center and a high proportion of Medicaid and low income residents. The areas to consider would be the Lenowisco Planning District, the Southside Planning District, or the Accomack-Northampton Planning District.
- To better serve veterans, Virginia should begin to build a continuum of long-term care to better serve veterans in the future. The seven care categories in the continuum are: extended inpatient care, acute inpatient care, ambulatory care, home care, outreach, wellness, and housing.

Using available data from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and other sources, Dr. Rossiter's report examines veterans by age group, where they live in Virginia, and the location of military bases, existing nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and health systems. The role of institutional versus home and community-based care is also considered.

The findings of Dr. Rossiter's report showed a projected decline in the total number of veterans in Virginia over the next twenty-five years. Given this projected decline, and the long planning time needed to design and build a veterans care center, Dr. Rossiter emphasized that great care must be taken to ensure the right number of beds are built in the right places. By the planning methodology used by the Virginia Department of Health's Certificate of Public Need process, no

planning district has a need for additional nursing home beds. However, using the USDVA methodology, there is a need for additional nursing beds for veterans. Assuming that federal grants can be used to subsidize construction and per diem costs, construction of approximately 760 to 1,100 new beds would meet the long-term care needs of Virginian's veterans.

Copies of the presentation were distributed to members.

Commissioner Burgess thanked Dr. Rossiter for his presentation.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment

### **Schedule Next Meeting Date and Location**

Commissioner Burgess stated a tentative date of September 21, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the SitterBarfoot Veterans Care Center.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the VCCAC meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.